

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 14-32 are supported by the specification and the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 14-32 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As set forth in Claim 14, the present invention relates to a method for producing a coated substrate with a mixture of two film-forming coating agents.

An important feature of the claimed method is that the film-forming coating agents are incompatible when separate aqueous solutions or dispersions of the coating agents are mixed with an aqueous solution or dispersion of the second film-forming coating agent. See Claim 14.

The problem of this incompatibility is solved in the present invention by simultaneously spraying separate liquid, sprayable aqueous solutions or dispersions of the film-forming coating agents on the substrate. As a result, the individual portions of the solutions or dispersions of the first film-forming coating agent and the second film-forming coating agents are mixed on the substrate and, after evaporation of water, the coating is formed. See Claim 14.

This method has the benefit that large amounts of plasticizer or emulsifier are not required during the coating process. In fact, Claim 14 explicitly specifies that the film-forming coating agents comprise, based on the dry matter of the mixture, no or not more than 20% by weight of a plasticizer and no or not more than 5% by weight of a nonionic emulsifier,

Since the claimed method uses aqueous solutions or dispersions to apply the coating agents, the use of organic solvents is avoided. As described in the specification at the top of page 3, organic solvents with respect to safety and environmental pollution.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishizue in view of Remington and further in view of Littman is respectfully traversed. The cited references fail to suggest the claimed method.

Ishizue describe highly absorbable pharmaceutical compositions which contain a specified active ingredient an pH-dependent copolymer of methacrylic acid dissolved in an organic solvent and thereafter removing the organic solvent. See the Abstract.

Thus, Ishizue discloses using a solution of the coating agent in a organic solvent. Therefore, the reference fails to disclose simultaneously spraying separate liquid, sprayable aqueous solutions or dispersions of the film-forming coating agents on the substrate as claimed, since the solvent used in the reference is an organic solvent.

Remington reviews the coating of pharmaceutical dosage forms. Littman describes an apparatus for coating. Those references, taken together in combination with Ishizue fail to suggest the claimed method. Nothing in those references suggests simultaneously spraying separate liquid, sprayable aqueous solutions or dispersions of the film-forming coating agents on the substrate.

In view of the foregoing, the claimed method is not suggested by Ishizue in view of Remington and further in view of Littman. Accordingly, Claims 14-32 are not obvious over those references. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. Claim 12 has been canceled and the subject matter of that claim is not recited in newly-added Claims 14-27. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The specification provides a detailed

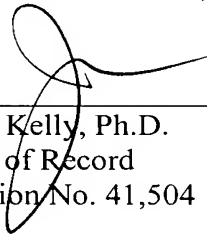
description of coating such that those skilled in the art can employ the claimed process with reasonable experimentation. Accordingly, the claims are enabled. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. Applicants submit that the metes and bounds of Claim 14 are clear. Accordingly, the claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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James J. Kelly, Ph.D.  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 41,504

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)